years of age, attending one of the schools in this city, began to complain seriously of his eyes. They 'watered' badly, and at times flashes of light darted through them, while the words of his book so ran together that he could not read. The intolerance of light was such as to prevent his enduring a bright sun, or the light of the gas in his room; and the pain in the eyes was so severe, even in the dark, as to prevent his sleeping. His appetite failed, he became emaciated; and the somewhat dilated, but mobile pupils, the drooping eyelids, the pallid countenance, and, in short, the general aspect of the case was so much like the two first, that from curiosity I examined his spine, and found in the same place the same excessive tenderness as in the others. I then took him from school, forbidding his looking at a book, and kept him secluded from all bright light. I applied croton oil to the spine, and gave him blue mass as an alterative, while he took thrice, daily, lupuline and rhubarb, with super-carbonate of soda. This was the main medicinal treatment, and as the irritation of the spine began to abate, the amaurotic symptoms diminished. He could not, however, for nearly or quite a year, read fine print, without the aid of glasses suitable to persons fifty years of age, although words printed in a large, coarse type were readily made out. In about fifteen months after commencing treatment, my son returned to school, and now he can read the finest print without difficulty, and without the aid of glasses, has no pain of the eyes, no unnatural appearance of the countenance, and is able to maintain his rank in his class with fair credit to himself. I consider him cured of his amaurosis."

Action of Chloroform on the Blood—Probable Causes of its Fatal Effects when inhaled as an Anæsthetic.—Dr. Chas. T. Jackson makes some interesting remarks on this subject (*Boston Med. and Surg. Jl.*, March 28, 1861). Six years ago he published a case of death in a healthy young woman, in whom death was produced from inhaling chloroform, preparatory to the extraction of a tooth. The blood taken from the right side of the heart was analyzed, and was found to contain formic acid in considerable quantities, but no chloroform in an undecomposed state. Microscopic examination of the blood, by Dr. J. Bacon, showed that the blood-globules were withered up in a very remarkable manner. Chlorine was also found to be a component of the blood. It was also observed that this blood did not coagulate, nor did the blood-globules subside, but the whole remained a solution, the blood having a cranberry-red colour, like red ink.

Dr. J. states that this blood has been kept in a vial in his office, exposed to temperatures from the freezing point to above 80° for more than six years, and yet it has not decomposed, nor has a single blood-globule settled to the bottom of the vial, nor has the colour changed in the least.

He now calls attention to these remarkable phenomena, which he thinks appear to throw some light on the chemical action which chloroform exerts on the blood. As he views the matter, he considers the chemical action on the blood by inhaled chloroform to be this: "Chloroform consists of one equivalent of formyle and three of chlorine. Formic acid consists of one equivalent of formyle and three of oxygen. When chloroform is inhaled into the lungs, the oxygen is abstracted from the blood, and combining with the formyle makes formic acid, while chlorine combines with the blood as a substitute for oxygen. Thus a portion of the blood becomes chemically changed, disorganized, and rendered unfit for its vital functions. Then, if that portion of the blood contained in the heart, and large vessels, which we may style the immediate working blood of those organs, is vitiated, so as no longer to be an appropriate stimulus to the most vital organs, sudden death is most likely to take place through cessation of their action. Our only surprise should be that death does not more frequently follow from inhalation of this dangerous anæsthetic agent, for the decomposition I have described undoubtedly always takes place to a certain extent, and to a sufficient degree to deoxidize a considerable portion of the blood, and to charge it with chlorine and formic acid.

"It is well known, that deaths more frequently take place in cases where chloroform is administered in minor surgical operations, or in cases where there is no loss of blood, than in larger and bloody operations.

"This I think admits of an explanation in the fact, that where there is large hemorrhage the vitiated blood, or a portion of it, is removed and is replaced in the vital organs by blood coming from other parts of the body, where it has been but little acted upon by the chlorine—a new working blood being drawn into the large circulating organs, which are thus enabled to continue their proper action, and to supply the brain with its appropriate stimulus. This hypothesis appears to me to cover the cases thus far reported, and I offer it for the consideration of physiologists.

"The great disadvantage under which chloroformization labours, is the introduction of chlorine, as such, into the composition of the blood. This we know to be destructive of the blood-globules, and an actual poison in the system.

"We naturally inquire how this vitiated blood is got rid of, for it evidently never can be re-organized in the circulation. It is undoubtedly thrown off as so much effete matter, by the secernent and excretory organs, and chiefly by the kidneys. Hence, in a large majority of cases, the patients recover with but little damage to their health, though there is always a degree of prostration in most if not all cases of chloroformization.

"It is obvious that we may much diminish the danger in employing this agent, by mixing with it a large proportion of pure ether, say at least three-fourths of its bulk. By this means we not only dilute the dangerous with a perfectly safe anæsthetic agent, but add the stimulus of ether to overcome the deadly, depressing effects of chloroform. The object in allowing any addition of chloroform to ether, was to obtain a less bulky and more powerful agent than pure ether alone, and to afford greater facility in carrying an anæsthetic agent into the field of battle. It was, therefore, recommended by me, and was used in the French and Sardinian armies of the Crimea, with great success and safety, while chloroform, which was employed by the English surgeons, produced many fatal accidents. Still, in cities and at home, or in hospitals, I should always prefer pure washed ether, as it is known to be a safe and sure anæsthetic agent, though it is somewhat bulky. However, from my own experience and observation, I must say I never have known any fatal or even inconvenient effect to result from the employment of the mixture of chloroform and ether in the proportions I have named."

Inversion of the Uterus.—Prof. JAS. P. WHITE relates (*Buffalo Medical and Surgical Journal*, August, 1861) an interesting case of this to which he was called by Dr. T. T. Lockwood. The subject was in her 23d year, of small stature, and the mother of two children. Nothing unusual had occurred in her previous labours, but Dr. Lockwood had remarked that her pelvis seemed remarkably large, and that the second stage of labour had each time been completed with great rapidity. Dr. L. had been called to the patient in her third labour, on the morning of the 8th of December, 1860. "The first stage of labour, during which there were no unusual symptoms present, had occupied a little more than two hours, the patient not being at all exhausted, and was completed a little after 12 o'clock. At this time the membranes ruptured, a large amount of water was suddenly discharged, and with the next pain the child was thrown entirely into the world. Dr. L. immediately slipped the cord, which was of rather more than ordinary length, and once *around* the *child's neck*, but *not tightly drawn*, over its head. Soon after, as the child was crying vigorously, he tied and divided it, handing over the infant to the nurse.

"His attention was immediately called to the mother, whom he now observed to look pale and to be fainting. Upon passing his hand up between her thighs, without having made the *cord tense*, he discovered a large tumour occupying the entire space, which, upon examination, he found to consist of the uterus, with the placenta attached. He immediately detached the placenta, carried the uterus up into the pelvis, entirely out of sight, where meeting with resistance to further reduction, he gave the woman a large draught of brandy and paregoric, and drove up to my house as rapidly as possible.

"Without loss of time I returned with the doctor to the residence of Mrs. R., whom we found surrounded by her friends, who supposed her dying. The wo-